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Commission on Population and Development

Report on the forty-fifth session (15 April 2011 and 23-27 April 2012)

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Summary

The forty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters on 15 April 2011 and from 23 to 27 April 2012. Its special theme was "Adolescents and youth".

The Commission considered the report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2012/3), which detailed the work of the Bureau in organizing the session.

The Commission considered two documents on the special theme of the session. In his report on adolescents and youth (E/CN.9/2012/4), the Secretary-General examined demographic trends among this population group and selected aspects of their transition to adulthood. Worldwide, there were more than 1.6 billion persons aged 12 to 24 years in 2012, the largest generation of young people in history. The population of adolescents and youth was projected to remain stable as long as global fertility continued to decline. However, that stability masked regional differences in growth rates. In Africa the population of adolescents and youth was projected to grow by 63 per cent by 2040, while in other regions the population aged 12 to 24 years would decline during the same period.

Summarizing evidence on marriage and childbearing among young people, the Secretary-General found that the current generation of young people was more likely than its parents to delay family formation. However, in a number of countries a significant proportion of women and girls were married at very young ages (under 15 years) regardless of laws on minimum age at marriage. Adolescents who had access to education were less likely to marry early, so investments in education would help to prevent very early marriage, especially for girls, and enforcement of laws on minimum age at marriage was imperative. Early marriage was strongly associated with early childbearing, with negative consequences for the health and well-being of both mother and child. The Secretary-General also emphasized that young people, whether married or unmarried, must have access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services. For example, more than one fifth of women aged 15 to 24 years who were married or in a union had an unmet need for contraception. Sexual and reproductive health-care services should be an integral part of the minimum health-care package offered to adolescents and youth.

The Secretary-General also examined evidence on morbidity and mortality among young people and noted that most deaths among persons aged 10 to 24 years were due to preventable causes. In many parts of the world young men had higher death rates than young women, owing to external causes such as accidents and violence. In Africa and southern Asia, however, the death rates of young women remained high owing to infectious causes and causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. The Secretary-General detailed a variety of interventions for improving health and reducing risk behaviours in various contexts, directed at HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, combating infectious diseases in low-income countries, preventing tobacco use and alcohol abuse, and reducing road traffic accidents and firearms violence.

The Secretary-General also highlighted certain features of young international migrants, noting that in 2010 some 35 million international migrants, 16 per cent of the world total, were between 10 and 24 years of age. Young people migrated for a number of reasons, often to accompany or reunite with their parents. They also moved independently in order to find employment, improve their education or acquire skills. The Secretary-General recommended facilitating migration for education and indicated that the countries of origin could benefit from the training and skills that young people acquired abroad by maintaining links while they were abroad and by facilitating their reintegration into the labour market upon return.

The Commission also considered the report of the Secretary-General on monitoring of population programmes, focusing on adolescents and youth (E/CN.9/2012/5). In his report, the Secretary-General reviewed actions by Governments, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations Population Fund and its partners to create a supportive environment for young people as they make the transition to adulthood; invest in young people; promote their rights and gender equality; provide access to sexual and reproductive health information and services; encourage their education and social integration; ensure protective measures and safe spaces for the most vulnerable among them, including those in humanitarian situations; and provide support for an enabling policy and legal framework for their participation in policymaking.

Also submitted for the Commission's consideration was the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2012/6). Despite modest increases in donor assistance, current funding levels were below the amounts necessary to fully implement the Programme of Action and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. That was true for all four components of the population package costed under the Conference: family planning; basic reproductive health; sexually transmitted diseases/HIV/AIDS prevention activities; and basic research, data and population and development policy analysis. Donor assistance, which had been increasing steadily over the past few years, was showing signs of slowing down: it stood at $10.6 billion in 2009 and increased slightly to $10.7 billion in 2010. An estimate of resources mobilized by developing countries as a group yielded a figure of $33.7 billion for 2010. Thus, while the Programme of Action called for developing countries to bear two thirds of expenditure for its implementation, the actual situation revealed that developing countries were funding just over three fourths of population expenditure and that private consumers in those countries were spending over half of domestic resources through out-of-pocket expenditure.

The Commission reviewed a report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 2011 (E/CN.9/2012/7), and took note of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 for subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs (E/CN.9/2012/CRP.1).

The Commission heard keynote addresses by Andrew Mason, Professor of Economics at the University of Hawaii; Shireen Jejeebhoy, Senior Associate at the Population Council; and George Patton, Professor of Adolescent Health Research at the University of Melbourne. It also heard presentations by two youth speakers, Souadou Ndoye of Senegal and Angga Dwi Martha of Indonesia.

In considering actions to follow up the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Commission, recalling General Assembly resolution 65/234 on the follow-up to the Conference beyond 2014, in which the Assembly emphasized the need for Governments to recommit themselves at the highest political level to achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the Conference, adopted a decision recommending to the Assembly that the special session to be held during the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly to carry out an assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action should take place immediately preceding the general debate of the sixty-ninth session.

The Commission also adopted a resolution on "Adolescents and youth", in which it reaffirmed the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, and reaffirmed its strong commitment to their full implementation and the sovereign right of each country to implement their recommendations. It urged Governments to promote intergenerational equity and solidarity by taking into account the implications of changing population age structures in development planning and to make youth development a priority throughout all sectors. The Commission also urged Governments to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms regardless of age and marital status, including by eliminating all forms of discrimination against girls and women, and to protect the human rights of adolescents and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality. It urged Member States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage was entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, and to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary.

In the resolution the Commission also urged Governments to ensure that young people, on an equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing them with access to sustainable health and social services without discrimination. It also urged Governments and development partners, in order to improve maternal health, reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality, and prevent and respond to HIV and AIDS, to strengthen health systems and ensure that they prioritize universal access to sexual and reproductive information and health-care services. In addition, the Commission called upon Governments to provide young people with evidence-based comprehensive education on human sexuality and on sexual and reproductive health, human rights and gender equality, to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality.

Moreover, the Commission urged Member States to improve the quality of education and to promote universal access to education, calling upon them to ensure the right to education for women and girls on an equal basis with men and boys. It urged Governments to improve and actively support opportunities for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work, including through investment in youth employment programmes. In addition, the Commission called upon Governments, United Nations agencies and others to actively support and invest in increased participation of young people and in youth-led and youth-focused organizations, taking into account gender equality and representation of youth of various backgrounds, in the formulation, decisions about, implementation and monitoring and evaluation, as appropriate, of international, regional, national and local development strategies and policies that affect young people.

The Commission adopted a decision to consider the biennial report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends in even-numbered years, in order to ensure that the report would be aligned with the most recent demographic estimates and projections. Accordingly, it was decided that the Commission would next consider the report on world demographic trends at its forty-seventh session, in 2014.

The Commission heard a statement by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2012, "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals". The statement was followed by an interactive dialogue with members of the Commission and observer States.

The Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for its forty-sixth session and adopted the report on its forty-fifth session.

[10 May 2012]

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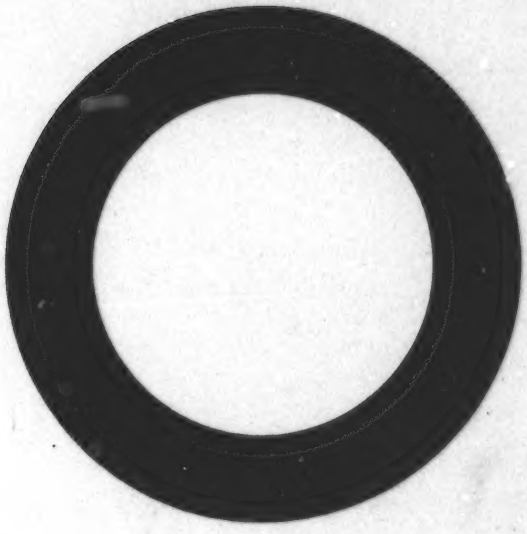

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Special session of the General Assembly on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014*

The Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 65/234 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, in which the Assembly emphasized the need for Governments to recommit themselves at the highest political level to achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the Conference , and noting the contribution of the Programme of Action to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, recommends to the Assembly that the special session to be held during the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly to carry out an assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action should take place immediately preceding the general debate of the sixty-ninth session.

Timing of the consideration of the report on world demographic trends**

The Economic and Social Council, recalling paragraph 9 of its resolution 1996/2 and in order to ensure that the biennial report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends is aligned with the most recent demographic estimates and projections, decides to change the timing of the consideration of the report by the Commission on Population and Development to even-numbered years and, accordingly, decides that the Commission will next consider the report on world demographic trends at its forty-seventh session, in 2014.

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fifth session and provisional agenda for its forty-sixth session***

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fifth session;[1]

* For the discussion, see chap. II.
** For the discussion, see chap. V.
*** For the discussion, see chap. VII.
[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 5* (E/2012/25).

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.[2]

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission
   Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

   Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings

3. Actions in follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the theme "New trends in migration: demographic aspects"

   Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the theme "New trends in migration: demographic aspects"

   Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. General debate on national experience in population matters: "New trends in migration: demographic aspects".

5. General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2013.

6. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2012

7. Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission.

[2] In accordance with its decision 2004/2, the Commission, immediately following the close of its forty-fifth session, will hold the first meeting of its forty-sixth session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other officers of the Commission, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolution and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 2012/1
Adolescents and youth*

The Commission on Population and Development,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[3] and the key actions for its further implementation,[4]

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[5] and the obligations of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[6] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[7] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[8] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[9] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[10] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[11]

Recalling further the outcomes of relevant United Nations high-level meetings, conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[12] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[13] the Beijing Platform for Action[14] and Five-year Review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration, the World Programme of Action for Youth,[15] and the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] See General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-21/5/Rev.1); and A/S-21/P.V.9.

[5] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[6] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[8] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[9] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[10] Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

[11] Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

[12] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[13] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[14] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[15] See General Assembly resolutions 50/81 and 62/126.

Understanding,[16] the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[17] and the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases,[18] as well as the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",[19] and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,

Acknowledging the largest generation of adolescents and youth ever in history and cognizant that different demographic trends and age structures directly impact their lives and have various impacts on development, depending on circumstances in each country, and on the size of investments required to ensure the health and development of current and future generations, and recognizing the evolving capacities, needs, contributions and challenges of adolescents and youth, and that classifications and definitions of age groups vary in accordance with each country's national legislation,

Recognizing that the ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and fulfil their potential will influence current social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations, and stressing the need for further efforts to promote the interests of youth, including the full enjoyment of their human rights, inter alia, by supporting young people in developing their potential and talents and tackling obstacles facing youth,

Recognizing also that the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, including those related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, which would also contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as those on population and development, education and gender equality, is integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and that population dynamics are all-important for development,

Recognizing further that adolescents and youth in all countries are a major resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation, and that further progress for development requires the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations at the international, regional, national and local levels,

Recognizing that the international community has been challenged by multiple and interrelated crises, including the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices, and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, all of which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have

[16] See General Assembly resolution 65/312.
[17] General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.
[18] General Assembly resolution 66/2, annex.
[19] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries, and calling for enhanced cooperation and concerted action to address those challenges, taking into account the positive role that education can play in that respect,

Reaffirming its commitment to realizing the right of everyone to education, and emphasizing that education shall be directed to the full development of the human person and his or her dignity and shall strengthen respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recalling that commitments made at the international level emphasize inclusive quality learning, including early childhood education, and universal access to complete, free and compulsory primary education as well as access to secondary, tertiary and vocational education and training and lifelong learning, as well as equal access to education and successful schooling for girls and women,

Addressing the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated national youth employment policies for inclusive job creation, improved employability, skill development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including youth migrants, and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the international, regional, national and local levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society,

Noting with concern that for millions of people throughout the world, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to medicines, still remains a distant goal and that in many cases, especially for children, youth and people living in poverty, the likelihood of achieving this goal is becoming increasingly remote,

Reaffirming the need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls and young women in all aspects of youth development, recognizing the vulnerability of adolescent girls and young women and the need to eliminate discrimination against them, and the critical role of boys and young men in ensuring gender equality,

Concerned that early and forced marriage and forced sexual relationships have adverse physical, social and psychological effects on adolescent and young girls and violate their human rights, and that early childbearing and early and forced marriage reduce opportunities for adolescent and young girls to complete their education, develop employable skills and participate in community development,

Recognizing that reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents and rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health, the right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, as expressed in human rights documents, and the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence,

Recognizing also that young people between 15 and 24 years of age account for more than 40 per cent of all new HIV infections among those aged 15 years or

over because of the social and economic factors and other inequities that increase their vulnerability, including stigma and discrimination, gender-based and sexual violence, gender inequality and violations and lack of accurate information on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and ready access to sexual and reproductive health, including HIV services,

Deeply concerned that young women living with HIV would like to space or limit pregnancy but are not using an effective modern method of contraception owing to limited access to voluntary family planning services and that addressing reproductive health and HIV together would better serve the needs of clients and health-care providers in a more comprehensive, cost-effective and efficient manner,

Recognizing that all forms of violence against adolescents and youth violate their rights, and in this regard recognizing the need to take appropriate actions to address the factors that increase the particular vulnerability of adolescents and youth to all forms of violence,

Recognizing also the importance of preventing and addressing youth crime, including drug-related crime, and its impact on youth and the socioeconomic development of societies, and of protecting young victims, witnesses and their respective families, as well as supporting the rehabilitation, reintegration and inclusion of young offenders in society with a view to their assuming constructive roles,

Emphasizing that the full implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons[20] will contribute to address all factors and root factors that foster demand and make adolescents and youth, especially young women and girls, vulnerable to trafficking, as well as the protection and rehabilitation of victims and will, inter alia, promote, as appropriate, increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[21] and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

Recognizing the contributions of adolescents and young migrants to countries of origin and destination, their particular vulnerabilities, circumstances and needs, and their potential to build social, economic and cultural bridges of cooperation and understanding across societies, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the socioeconomic circumstances and specific needs of young migrants,

Recognizing also that malaria-related ill health and deaths throughout the world, particularly among children, adolescents and youth, can be substantially reduced with political commitment and commensurate resources if the public is educated and sensitized about malaria and appropriate health services are made available, particularly in countries where the disease is endemic,

Recalling that the Programme of Action requires for its full implementation adequate and sustained mobilization and availability of resources at the international and national levels, as well as new and additional resources for developing countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, and that Governments are not expected to meet the goals and objectives of

[20] General Assembly resolution 64/293.

[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

the Programme of Action single-handedly, and expressing concern that funding levels do not meet current needs,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on adolescents and youth[22] and on monitoring of population programmes, focusing on adolescents and youth,[23] and taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[24]

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[3] and the key actions for its further implementation;[4]

2. *Also reaffirms* its strong commitment to the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation agreed at the five-year review of the Programme of Action, and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action;[25]

3. *Further reaffirms* the sovereign right of each country to implement recommendations of the Programme of Action or other proposals in the present resolution, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, in formulating and implementing national development plans, budgets and poverty eradication strategies, to prioritize actions to address challenges relating to the impact of population dynamics on poverty and sustainable development, keeping in mind that universal reproductive health-care services, commodities and supplies, as well as information, education, skill development, national capacity-building for population and development, and transfer of appropriate technology and know-how to developing countries are essential for achieving the Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action[14] and the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Also calls upon* Governments, considering the development situation in each country, to promote both intergenerational equity and solidarity by taking into account the implications of the changing age structures of the population in medium- and long-term development planning and by considering the age-related consequences of social and economic policies, and further calls upon Governments and development partners to make youth development a priority across all sectors;

6. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to combat all forms of discrimination against young people, including that based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status, and to foster social integration for marginalized groups, such as young persons with disabilities, young migrants and indigenous youth, on an equal basis with others;

7. *Urges* Governments to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms regardless of age and marital status, including, inter alia, by

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[22] E/CN.9/2012/4.

[23] E/CN.9/2012/5.

[24] E/CN.9/2012/6.

[25] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

eliminating all forms of discrimination against girls and women, by working more effectively to achieve equality between women and men in all areas of family responsibility, in sexual and reproductive life, and in education at all levels, and by protecting the human rights of adolescents and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health;

8. *Urges* Member States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage, where necessary;

9. *Urges* all States to develop, adopt and fully implement laws and to take other measures, such as policies and educational programmes, as appropriate, to eradicate harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage, which are violations of the human rights of women and girls, and to intensify efforts, in cooperation with local women's and youth groups, to raise collective and individual awareness on how such harmful practices violate the human rights of women and girls;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to support ways to expand access to and the affordability of key products, such as vector control measures, including indoor residual spraying, long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, environmental management and vaccines, as well as by monitoring surveillance through rapid diagnostic tests, and artemisinin-based combination therapy for populations at risk of exposure to resistant strains of falciparum malaria in malaria-endemic countries, particularly in Africa, including through additional funds and innovative mechanisms, inter alia, for the financing and scaling-up of artemisinin production and procurement, as appropriate, to meet the increased need;

11. *Welcomes* the increased funding for malaria interventions and for research and development of preventive and control tools that will target children, adolescents and youth;

12. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect all adolescents and youth, including those in situations of armed conflict, natural disasters or humanitarian emergencies, from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence and sexual violence, trafficking in persons and involvement in criminal activities, and to provide social and health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and complaint and reporting mechanisms for the redress of violations of their human rights;

13. *Urges* Member States to take effective measures in conformity with international law to protect adolescents and youth affected or exploited by terrorism and incitement;

14. *Also urges* Member States to take concerted actions in conformity with international law to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the rights of adolescents and youth living under foreign occupation to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially young people,

regardless of their migration status, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue, and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, especially young people, and to address the root causes of youth migration, while avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

16. *Calls upon* Governments to take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and young women, to remove all obstacles to gender equality, to promote the empowerment of girls and young women in all aspects of youth development, and to encourage boys and young men to participate fully in all actions towards gender equality;

17. *Also calls upon* Governments to support and encourage men in their important role as fathers and in helping their children transition successfully to adulthood, including by providing adequate financial support for their children and families, to promote positive male role models and programmes for boys to become gender-sensitive adults and to enable men to support, promote and respect women's sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, recognizing the inherent dignity of all human beings;

18. *Urges* Member States to improve and actively support opportunities for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work, including through investment in youth employment programmes, youth-adult partnerships entrepreneurship and other income generation strategies, active labour markets, public-private partnerships and other measures to facilitate the participation of young people in labour markets, in accordance with States' respective national laws and international obligations and commitments, and to reinforce links between national development strategies and policies on education, training, social integration and mobility, taking into account gender equality and the empowerment of women;

19. *Also urges* Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated national youth employment policies for inclusive job creation, improved employability, skill development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including young migrants, and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the international, regional, national and local levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and in this regard request donors, specialized United National entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance, including technical and funding support, as required;

20. *Encourages* Member States to meet the needs and aspirations of youth, particularly in the areas of education, work, income creation and citizen participation, through, inter alia, training programmes that result from dialogue between Governments, employers and employees of various sectors of the economy, as appropriate;

21. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the right to education of good quality for women and girls, on an equal basis with men and boys, and that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve

and expand the education of girls and women at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication;

22. *Urges* Member States to increase efforts to improve the quality of education and to promote universal access to education, without discrimination on any basis, to ensure that adolescents and youth can acquire the knowledge, capacities, skills and ethical values needed, including through appropriate access to scholarships and other mobility programmes;

23. *Urges* Governments and the international community to ensure that young people, on an equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing them with access to sustainable health and social services without discrimination, by paying special attention to nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases, promotion of sexual and reproductive health, and mental health, and by supporting measures to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS, to reduce road traffic fatalities and injuries, to prevent tobacco and illicit drug use and the harmful use of alcohol, and to encourage sports and recreation as well as the removal of all types of barriers to the ability of adolescents and youth to protect their health;

24. *Also urges* Governments to strengthen basic infrastructure, human and technical resources, and the provision of health facilities so as to improve health systems, particularly for adolescents and youth, and to ensure the accessibility, affordability and quality, especially in rural and remote areas, of health-care services, as well as sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, bearing in mind the commitment to halving, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a means of fighting waterborne diseases;

25. *Recognizes* the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for adolescents to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the adolescent, appropriate direction and guidance on sexual and reproductive matters, and that countries must ensure that the programmes and attitudes of health-care providers do not restrict the access by adolescents to appropriate services and the information they need, including on sexually transmitted infections and sexual abuse, and recognizes that in doing so, and in order to, inter alia, address sexual abuse, these services must safeguard the right of adolescents to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, respecting cultural values and religious beliefs, and that in this context, countries should, where appropriate, remove legal, regulatory and social barriers to reproductive health information and care for adolescents;

26. *Calls upon* Governments, with the full involvement of young people and with the support of the international community, to give full attention to meeting the reproductive health-service, information and education needs of young people, with full respect for their privacy and confidentiality, free of discrimination, and to provide them with evidence-based comprehensive education on human sexuality, sexual and reproductive health, human rights and gender equality to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality;

27. *Urges* Governments and development partners, including through international cooperation, in order to improve maternal health, reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality, and prevent and respond to HIV and AIDS, to strengthen health systems and ensure that they prioritize universal access to sexual and reproductive information and health-care services, including family planning, prenatal care, safe delivery and postnatal care, especially breastfeeding and infant and women's health care, emergency obstetric care, prevention and appropriate treatment of infertility, quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion, reducing the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family planning services and, in circumstances where abortion is not against the law, training and equipping health-service providers and other measures to ensure that such abortion is safe and accessible, recognizing that in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and other reproductive health conditions and information, education and counselling, as appropriate, on human sexuality, reproductive health and responsible parenthood, taking into account the particular needs of those in vulnerable situations, which would contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals;

28. *Reiterates* the need for Governments to ensure that all women and men have comprehensive information about, and access to, a choice of the widest possible range of safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning, including long-acting methods and male and female condoms, so that they are able to exercise free and informed reproductive choices, and stresses that Governments and development partners, through international cooperation, should ensure that family planning programmes have a sufficient and continuous supply of safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern contraceptives;

29. *Calls upon* Governments to pay particular attention to adolescents and youth, especially young women and adolescent girls, in significantly scaling up efforts to meet the goal of ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, free of stigma and discrimination and with a gender perspective, and to provide comprehensive information, voluntary counselling and testing to adolescents and youth living with HIV as they transition into adulthood;

30. *Also calls upon* Governments to strengthen national social and child protection systems, and care and support programmes for adolescents and youth, in particular for young women and adolescent girls affected by and vulnerable to HIV, as well as their families and caregivers, including through the provision of equal opportunities to support the development to full potential of orphans and other children affected by and living with HIV, especially through equal access to education, the creation of safe and non-discriminatory learning environments, supportive legal systems and protections, including civil registration systems, and provision of comprehensive information and support, including youth-friendly health centres, to children and their families and caregivers, especially age-appropriate HIV information to assist children living with HIV as they transition through adolescence, consistent with their evolving capacities;

31. *Calls upon* Governments, United Nations agencies, and others, as appropriate, to actively support and invest in increased participation of young

people and in youth-led and youth-focused organizations, taking into account gender equality and representation of youth of various backgrounds, in the formulation, decisions about, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of, as appropriate, international, regional, national and local development strategies and policies that affect young people;

32. *Encourages* Governments to improve information in order to enable young people to make better use of their opportunities to participate in decision-making, to develop and strengthen opportunities for young people to learn their rights and responsibilities, promoting their social and political participation and removing obstacles that affect their full contribution to society, and to promote and support youth associations, volunteer groups and entrepreneurship;

33. *Invites* a wide range of relevant stakeholders, including families, teachers, religious, traditional and community leaders, and community-based organizations, to play positive roles to promote adolescent and youth development, maximize the impact of information, education and communication activities and social media, and mobilize public opinion in support of actions to improve the well-being of young people and their ability to exercise their human rights;

34. *Encourages* the United Nations agencies, the international community and civil society, as well as the private sector, to promote and support the implementation of the adolescent and youth development agenda and to strengthen international cooperation and the exchange of information on effective policies, programmes and activities as a matter of priority;

35. *Underlines* the central role of the global partnership for development and the importance of goal 8 in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizes that without substantial international support, several of the goals are likely to be missed in many developing countries;

36. *Encourages* Governments and development partners to bring their investments in reproductive health in line with the revised cost estimates presented by the Secretary-General for each of the four programme components identified in chapter XIII of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[26] calls upon Governments of both developed and developing countries to make every effort to mobilize the required resources to ensure that the health, development and human rights-related objectives of the Programme of Action are met, and urges Governments and development partners to cooperate closely to ensure that resources are used in a manner that ensures maximum effectiveness and is in full alignment with the needs and priorities of developing countries;

37. *Urges* Governments to monitor their progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation and other internationally agreed development goals at the national and local levels, and in this regard, to make special efforts to strengthen their vital registration and health information systems, and to develop the capacity of relevant national institutions and mechanisms to generate population data, disaggregated by sex, age and other categories, as needed, to monitor the well-being of adolescents

[26] See E/CN.9/2012/6, sect. V.

and youth, and to use these data for the formulation and implementation of population and development policies;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action, the substantive work on adolescents and youth, including integrating gender and age perspectives, and other relevant perspectives, into analyses and recommendations, in collaboration and coordination with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and other relevant international organizations, and giving due consideration to their implications for development and poverty eradication, and sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth.

Decision 2012/101
Documents considered by the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-fifth session*

The Commission on Population and Development takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2011: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs;[27]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs.[28]

* For the discussion, see chap. V.

[27] E/CN.9/2012/7.

[28] E/CN.9/2012/CRP.1.

Chapter II

Actions in follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development

3. The Commission held a general discussion on item 3 of its agenda, entitled "Actions in follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development", at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 23 April 2012. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on adolescents and youth (E/CN.9/2012/4);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring of population programmes, focusing on adolescents and youth (E/CN.9/2012/5);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2012/6).

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 23 April, introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Migration Section of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; the Director of the Technical Division, United Nations Population Fund; and the Chief of the Population and Development Branch of the Technical Division, United Nations Population Fund.

5. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Indonesia, Finland, China, Germany, Belgium, the Russian Federation and Cuba, and by the observers for Norway, Sweden, the European Union (and associated countries), as well as by the observer for Partners in Population and Development and the representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Keynote addresses

6. At the 2nd meeting, on 23 April, the Commission heard keynote statements by selected representatives of youth, Souadou Ndoye (Senegal) and Angga Dwi Martha (Indonesia), and engaged in an interactive dialogue, in which the representatives of the United States of America, Indonesia, Uganda, the Netherlands and the Philippines, and the observers for Norway and South Africa participated.

7. At the 3rd meeting, on 23 April, the keynote speaker, Andrew Mason, Professor of Economics at the University of Hawaii, addressed the Commission on the theme "Adolescents and youth: their numbers and economic roles" and engaged in an interactive dialogue with the representatives of Cuba, Jamaica, Hungary, Senegal and the Netherlands, and the observers for Norway, Botswana and Uganda, as well as the representative of the United Nations Population Fund.

8. At the 4th meeting, on 24 April, the keynote speaker, Shireen Jejeebhoy, Senior Associate at the Population Council, made a presentation on the theme "Ensuring the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth" and engaged in an interactive dialogue with the representatives of Uganda, Croatia, Côte d'Ivoire and Germany, and the observers for Norway and the Niger, as well as the representative of ECA.

9. At the 6th meeting, on 25 April, the keynote speaker, George Patton, Professor of Adolescent Health Research at the University of Melbourne, made a presentation on the theme "The promise and potential of adolescent and youth health" and engaged in an interactive dialogue with the representatives of Japan, Cuba, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia, and the observer for South Africa.

Action taken by the Commission

Special session of the General Assembly on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014

10. At its 9th meeting, on 27 April, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014" (E/CN.9/2012/L.4), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations.

11. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out a statement of programme budget implications of the draft decision.

12. Also at the 9th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decisions).

Adolescents and youth

13. At its 9th meeting, on 27 April, the Commission had before it the text of a draft resolution entitled "Adolescents and youth", submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations, circulated in English only.

14. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

15. Following a suspension of the meeting, the Chair submitted a revised draft resolution.

16. Also at the 9th meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 2012/1).

17. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, Algeria (on behalf of the African Group), the United States of America, Guatemala, Hungary, Tunisia, China, Belgium (also on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Brazil, the Russian Federation and Indonesia, and by the observers for Uganda, Malta, Poland, Egypt (on behalf of the Arab Group), Chile, Costa Rica and New Zealand.[29]

18. At the same meeting, a statement was also made by the observer for the Holy See.

[29] Available, when provided to the Secretariat, at www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2012/cpd45.htm.

Chapter III

General debate on national experience in population matters: adolescents and youth

19. The Commission held a general discussion on item 4 of its agenda, entitled "General debate on national experience in population matters: adolescents and youth", at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 23 to 26 April 2012. It had before it a number of statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

20. At its 3rd meeting, on 23 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the African Group), Angola (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), Indonesia and Gabon, and by the observers for the United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the Arab Group), Swaziland and Uruguay.

21. At its 4th meeting, on 24 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Colombia, Croatia, the United States of America, Finland, Uganda, Portugal, El Salvador, Japan, Switzerland, China and Germany, and by the observers for South Africa, the Dominican Republic, Norway, Canada, Benin and Chile.

22. At its 5th meeting, on 24 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of the Netherlands, Bangladesh, Senegal, Israel, Tunisia, Belarus, Malaysia, Malawi, Kenya and Ghana, and by the observers for Zambia, Botswana, Mexico, Malta, Denmark, Poland, Jordan, Australia and Peru.

23. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Holy See.

24. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, ECA and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

25. At its 6th meeting, on 25 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Brazil, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, the Philippines, Cuba, Guatemala and Jamaica, and by the observers for Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Trinidad and Tobago, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, Nepal (on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries), Chad and Burkina Faso.

26. At its 7th meeting, on 25 April, the Commission heard statements by the observers for the Gambia and Uzbekistan.

27. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization.

28. At the 7th and 8th meetings, on 25 and 26 April, statements were also made by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Advocates for Youth; Family Care International; IPAS; International Planned Parenthood Federation; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; Misión Mujer A.C.; Stichting Rutgers WPF; Bahá'í International Community; World Youth Alliance; Vida y Familia de

Guadalajara (VIFAC); Action Canada for Population and Development; Amnesty International; Forum for Women and Development; Soroptimist International; Center for Reproductive Rights; Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer; Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues; International Association of Applied Psychology; Red Mujeres, Desarollo, Justicia y Paz; Endeavour Forum; World Mission Foundation; Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia; Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe; and AARP.

Chapter IV

General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2012

29. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda, entitled "General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2012", at its 7th meeting, on 25 April 2012, and heard an address by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2012, "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals". A presentation was also made by the Chief of the Population and Development Section of the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs.

30. Statements were also made by the representatives of Algeria, Indonesia, Israel, Belarus, the Russian Federation, Brazil and Côte d'Ivoire, and by the observer for the European Union.

31. At the same meeting, a statement was also made by the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Chapter V

Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

32. The Commission held a general discussion on item 6 of its agenda, entitled "Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population", at its 8th meeting, on 26 April 2012. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2011: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2012/7);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs (E/CN.9/2012/CRP.1).

33. At the same meeting, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the representative of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

34. Also at the same meeting statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, the United States of America and China, and by the observer for Norway.

35. At 8th meeting, the representative of ECLAC also made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

Documents considered by the Commission under agenda item 7

36. At its 9th meeting, on 27 April, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Commission took note of a number of documents submitted under agenda item 7 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2012/101).

37. At the same meeting, the Commission had before it a draft decision of the Economic and Social Council entitled "Timing of the consideration of the report on world demographic trends" (E/CN.9/2012/L.3), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations.

38. Also at the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

39. Also at its 9th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decisions).

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission

40. At its 9th meeting, on 27 April 2012, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2012/L.2).

41. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session

42. At the 9th meeting, on 27 April 2012, the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, Martina Težak Budilić (Croatia), introduced the draft report on the forty-fifth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2012/L.5).

43. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and authorized the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur to finalize it, in consultation with the Secretariat.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

44. The Commission on Population and Development held its forty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters on 15 April 2011 and from 23 to 27 April 2012. The Commission held nine meetings (1st to 9th).

45. At the 2nd meeting, on 23 April 2012, the session was opened by the Chair of the Commission, Hasan Kleib (Indonesia), who also made a statement.

46. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General, the Acting President of the General Assembly, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund addressed the Commission.

B. Attendance

47. The session was attended by 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and one non-member State, representatives of organizations and other entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants will be available in document E/CN.9/2012/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

48. At its 1st, 2nd and 8th meetings, on 15 April 2011 and on 23 and 26 April 2012, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair

Hasan Kleib (Indonesia)

Vice-Chairs

Sergio Rodrigues dos Santos (Brazil)
Martina Težak Budišić (Croatia)
William Awinador-Kanyirige (Ghana)
Pio Wennubst (Switzerland)

49. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 April, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair, Martina Težak Budišić (Croatia), to also serve as Rapporteur for the session.

50. At the same meeting, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair, Pio Wennubst (Switzerland), to chair the informal consultations.

D. Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings

51. At the 2nd meeting, the Chair introduced the report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2012/3).

52. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of the report of the Bureau.

E. Agenda

53. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2012/2), which reads as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Actions in follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.
4. General debate on national experience in population matters: adolescents and youth.
5. General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2012.
6. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission.
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session.

54. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session, as orally corrected (see E/CN.9/2012/L.1).

F. Documentation

55. The list of documents before the Commission at its forty-fifth session is available on the website of the Population Division (www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2012/cpd45.htm).